

# The Baptist Record

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## "No trucks" delays food for starving

By David Wilkinson

WASHINGTON (BP)—Thousands of Africans may die between now and the November harvest because of failure to provide adequate transportation for delivery of emergency food supplies, according to two U.S. Congressmen.

Representatives Mike Synar, D-Okla., and Mickey Leland, D-Texas, who have observed relief efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, testified Sept. 19 at a hearing of the African Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Synar told the subcommittee the "No. 1 concern" of his constituents in Oklahoma is the question of whether the food is reaching the African people.

Unfortunately, much of the food is not getting there because of inadequate transportation, he said. "The tragedy is that because of complacency we are facing a new crisis. Food without trucks is useless."

Synar and Leland called for an immediate augmenting of local transport systems in Western Sudan and Ethiopia through the purchase of lease of several hundred trucks to move food now in storage. Leland said there are 350,000 tons in storage in Port Sudan and 200,000 tons in Ethiopia, yet lack of transportation has kept millions of people from receiving food.

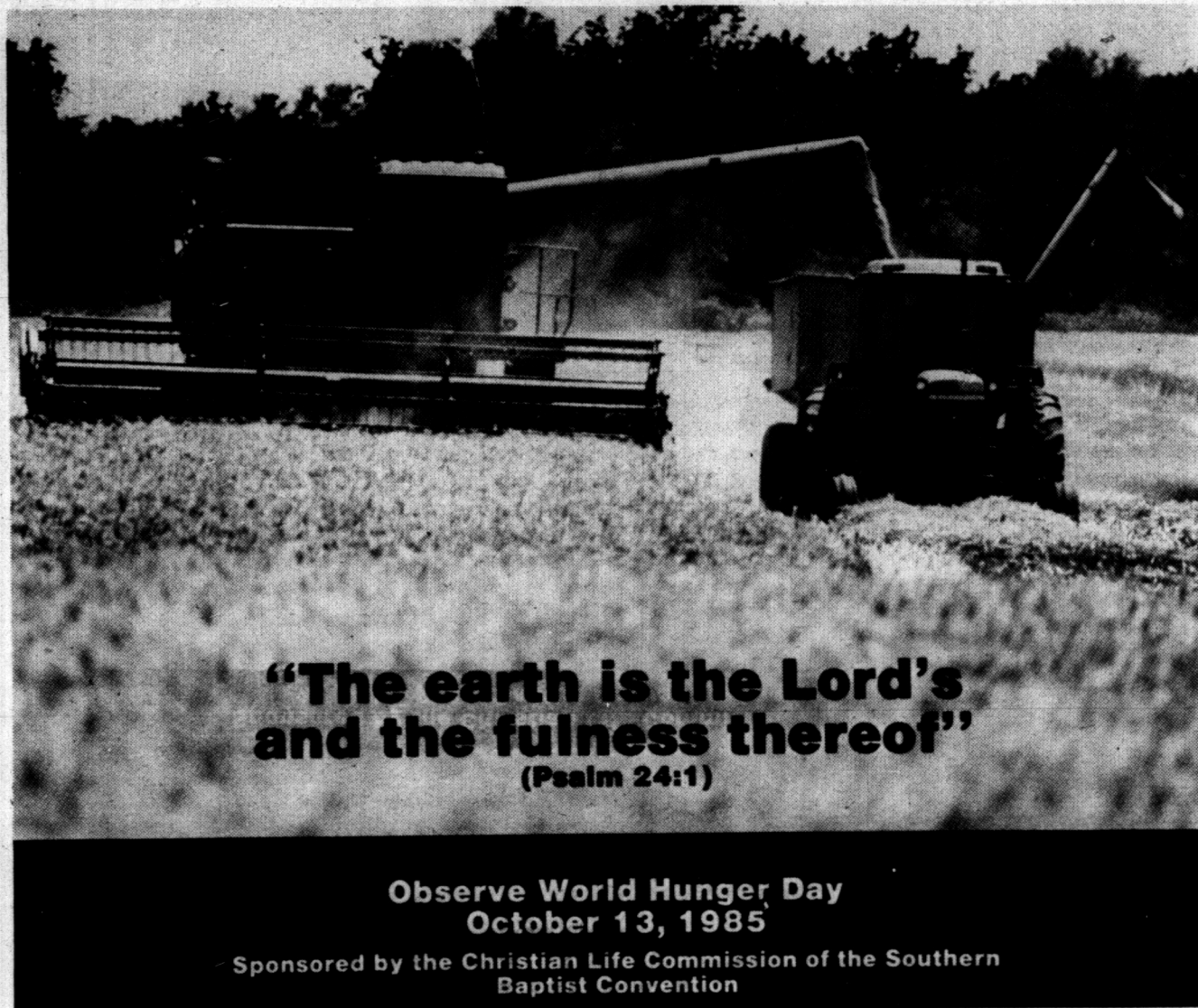
The two Congressmen specifically urged the administration to honor immediately a U.S. pledge to provide an additional 400 trucks to Ethiopia.

Both Congressmen criticized the Agency for International Development (AID) for failure to provide necessary non-food assistance such as transportation and medicine, despite "clear evidence" last winter that such needs existed.

Leland, chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, said food supplies in Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali, and other famine-stricken countries far exceed local transport capacity after almost a year of intensive relief efforts.

"The failure to spend a few million dollars for the provision of trucks to transport food when we spend millions to send food makes no sense," he charged. "The consequence will be thousands of avoidable deaths."

David Wilkinson writes for the Christian Life Commission.



## West Virginia becomes 27th to qualify

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists has become the 27th state convention to qualify for representation on the boards and commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

And the 10 conventions not allocated spots on the boards are pushing for new guidelines which would make them eligible for positions on the decision-making bodies on the agencies of the 14.4-million member SBC.

The matter is being studied, for the fourth time, by a workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee. A seven-member committee will report in February 1986.

Under present guidelines a convention affiliated with the SBC must have 25,000 members before applying for representation.

That rule, which West Virginia met by having 25,665 members by mid-1984, has been a longtime irritant to the smaller convention.

## World grows enough grain to feed every human 3,000 calories a day

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

By Robert Parham

A recent article in a major news magazine described "an orphan of the famine" in Africa:

"Mimi is 2½ years old and just learning to walk. Because of severe malnutrition, her body is off balance and she falls repeatedly. She will be permanently stunted, and she may have suffered brain damage. No one knows what happened to Mimi's parents; they abandoned her in a desolate field and have never come back."

Mimi's story is the story of Africa. The African famine stalks an estimated 30 million people living below the Sahara Desert. It breaks up families, tears down human potential and snuffs out life. It has turned Africa into a continent of tears.

In Africa's famine belt, a child between the ages of four and six consumes fewer than 800 calories daily. Across the Atlantic Ocean, a well-nourished American child in the same age span eats 1,600 to 1,800 calories a

day. The tragedy of the starving African children comes into sharper focus with disclosure that enough grain is produced worldwide to offer daily every human being 3,000 calories.

When the reality of hunger collides with the reality of abundant food, the question jarred loose concerns stewardship: Why are so many people so hungry in a world with so much food?

The reasons are many and the problems are complex. But one undeniable reason why people are hungry at home and abroad is that the abundance of the planet is not being shared. Psalm 24:1 reminds us that the earth and its bountiful produce belong to the Lord. The Lord has entrusted us with the responsibility to look after his creation and to share it with others.

The survival of hungry people hinges on responsible stewardship practiced daily by Southern Baptists

and other Christians. World Hunger Day can be a time for churches, families and individuals to focus on this need for stewardship and to take steps to increase our awareness and our involvement.

On this World Hunger Day, take time at Sunday dinner to pray that the hungry will receive bread. Pray that those of us who have bread will have a hunger for justice.

After the noon meal, write a letter to your representative, senators and the president. Urge them to support public policies which will feed the hungry, help the hungry feed themselves and remove the obstacles which keep people hungry. Public policy has enormous potential either to build up or wipe out charitable hunger relief efforts.

At the evening meal, place an extra plate at the table as a reminder of your hungry neighbor. Send the cost of the meal for the unseen hungry guest to the hunger relief funds of the

Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

These simple steps of prayer, giving and Christian citizenship can help us begin to respond holistically to the needs of hungry persons.

October 13 is a time for all Southern Baptists to remember the plight of the hungry and to recommit ourselves to practicing better stewardship.

Robert Parham is director of hunger concerns for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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# Editorials..... by don mcgregor

## Continuing help for the hungry

Oct. 13 is World Hunger Day, and surely this is a year in which we can all give specific attention to hunger as it is known throughout the world. It has been called to our attention in a very graphic way throughout this year as we have been able to look into the faces of starving people in Africa, particularly Ethiopia.

Television takes us right to where the catastrophes are all over the world. We've been with earthquake victims in Mexico and with victims of Hurricane Elena on our own Gulf Coast even though we may live hundreds of miles from the coast.

We've also walked right beside those who are seeking to aid the hunger stricken in Ethiopia. We don't have to be told. We have seen it first-hand. It is almost beyond comprehension until we do see it.

Southern Baptists have been there providing relief probably on a more efficient basis than anyone else. Every penny sent to the Foreign Mission Board or the Home Mission Board that is designated for hunger relief goes for that purpose. Administrative costs have already been paid.

For years we have known that the wastelands of Africa were slowly growing, and Baptist missionaries, such as Mississippian Larry Cox in Burkina Fasso, have been struggling against that encroachment. Widespread droughts this year and last, however, have added to the problem and compounded it greatly. The fight has only begun to try to help the starving people of Africa, and relief efforts will be needing to go on for many months to come.

World Hunger Day is an emphasis that is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. It is an emphasis, however, and not a day of action. The action needs to be already under way and needs to continue for sometime to come.

Hunger is not just in Africa, of course. It is a fact of life that encircles the globe. And Southern Baptist missionaries, including many Mississippians, are fighting against it wherever it is found. We need to help them, and the only way in which we can do that is to send them money.

Before we put all of our efforts into helping the hungry in far-flung overseas areas, however, we need to remember that there are also hungry people in the United States. There are hungry people in Jackson, but we never see them. Our paths of affluence never take us to where the hungry people are unless we get in-

involved in trying to help them survive. A walk down a New York street in sub freezing temperature and seeing people sleeping on the street is an eye-opening experience.

In Mississippi it needs to be remembered that money sent to the Convention Board for hunger relief, unless it is designated otherwise, will go overseas. This was a decision of the Executive Committee, and that is all right. But those who want to provide funds for helping the hungry in the United States must designate their contributions for that purpose.

World Hunger Day should be used to remind us that there are millions of people around us and all over the world who do not have nearly enough if anything to eat. We need to help. But help on a one-time basis, though it will do a little good, is not nearly enough either. The help must be substantial, and it must be continuing.

## Guest opinion . . .

## The ministry of encouragement

By Bobby Walton

Recently a lady in our church spoke on the subject of encouragement. As I listened I was very much aware of how I had benefited from encouragement. In 1980, while pastoring a large rural church in South Mississippi, I developed a voice problem called spastic dysphonia. There is wide disagreement concerning the origin of the problem. The most recent evidence reveals that it may be neurological. The problem became so great that it became necessary for me to resign the church with no place to go. The days that followed were frustrating. I became angry, depressed, and withdrawn. I detested talking on the telephone or being in situations where I had to use my voice. Many times I was tempted to retreat and live the life of a hermit. The only reason I have not yielded to the temptation has been because of the encouragement that I have received from people all across Mississippi and elsewhere.

This encouragement has come in the form of letters from members of churches where I have been pastor in the past. I never knew that a black mail box sitting on a post could be so important. I waited impatiently each day for the mail to arrive. It comes from a loving wife who does not allow me to wallow in self pity. It came from a Christian counselor. It came from the Bolivar Baptist Association. In spite of the speech problem, the Association elected me to serve as moderator and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board member. It has come from a support group of Baptist ministers who meet each week in Cleveland. But most of all, it has come from the Benoit Union Church of which the Benoit Baptist Church is a

part. The church called me as pastor when I did not have a church. They were well aware of my voice problem. During the past three years they have loved me, supported me, encouraged me, and accepted me for who I am. I never take these things for granted, and I shall always be indebted to this church for believing in me during a dark period in my life.

I do not believe that God sent the voice problem, but I do believe that much good has come from this experience. I am a more patient and caring pastor. I am better prepared to minister to people with similar problems because I know first hand the frustration and hurt they are experiencing. Many people have told me that I have been a source of inspiration to them. Thus far God has not seen fit to remove the problem completely; but He has given me the strength to bear it, as was true with Paul. I still have hopes that one day I will, with the help of God and others, win the battle.

I have shared this personal information because I am convinced that there are many other ministers and lay persons who could benefit from a little encouragement. God may not have called you to preach, teach, sing, or do other tasks delegated to the "called"; but there is not a single person who could not be another Barnabas. One of the greatest mistakes that we make about encouragement is that it only comes in the form of words. Many times it comes in the form of a smile, a warm handclasp, a pat on the shoulder, a forgiving spirit, a kind deed, or being present when there is a need. The spirit of Barnabas is needed everywhere in our world. Somebody is just waiting to be en-

couraged. God help us to believe that encouragement is a needed and important ministry.

### Don't quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit —

Rest if you must, but don't you quit.  
Success is failure turned inside out.  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,

It may be near when it seems afar,  
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit —  
It's when things go wrong that you mustn't quit.

—Author Unknown—

Bobby Walton is pastor of Benoit Baptist Church.

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515 Mississippi Street  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor	Editor
Tim Nicholas	Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams	Assistant Editor
Evelyn Keyes	Advertising Coordinator
Florence Larrimore	Editorial Assistant
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### SO ALONE



"WHOEVER GIVES TO ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES EVEN A CUP OF COLD WATER BECAUSE HE IS A DISCIPLE, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, HE SHALL NOT LOSE HIS REWARD."  
—THE CHRIST (MATTHEW 10:42)

## Youth meetings record 678 professions of faith

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—National youth-related summer conferences and camps resulted in 6,676 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 5,386 youth, or 23.78 percent of those attending, made public decisions. These included 678 professions of faith, 4,116 rededications and 592 vocational decisions.

Centrifuge, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's recreation department, was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers; Mobile College, Mobile, Ala.; and North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C. Two traveling staffs conducted camps in the West and Midwest.

A total of 1,290 spiritual decisions were recorded at youth conferences sponsored by the board's Church Training department at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. These decisions included 227 professions of faith, 906 rededications, 73 vocational decisions and 84 others.

Also a Centrifuge, a missions offering of more than \$84,000 was contributed by youth and their sponsors for hunger relief in Africa.

In addition, weekly offerings for the Cooperative Program collected at Ridgecrest and Glorieta summer conferences totaled \$54,242.13—\$24,895.42 at Ridgecrest and \$29,346.71 at Glorieta.



# Mississippians help Mexicans help selves

By Tim Nicholas

"We forgot we were two peoples," reported Jim Didlake, who just returned to Mississippi with the first contingent of Baptist volunteers with the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit on duty in Mexico City. The unit was activated after an invitation by the Baptist mission in Mexico to help feed victims of two major earthquakes which hit the city.

Didlake, on site coordinator for the unit which is operated by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said that a warm relationship developed "almost instantaneously" between the Mississippi volunteers and the people of Mexico City.

Several times a day, said Didlake, whenever a commotion was heard near the unit — which was parked at a sports complex serving as shelter for displaced persons — the source would be one or two of the Mississippians... and about 50 children gathered around them. "They would be playing games — Mexican or American — the children love those men to death," said Didlake.

Mexican nationals have carried the load of food preparation, with the Mississippians — they have counterpart units from Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma in other parts of the city — majoring on keeping the unit operational.

"The Mexicans delighted in cooking for the crew," said Didlake. The men would try the hot pepper dishes, fanning their mouths. "Our crew tried anything that was prepared."

All cooking was from scratch. Breakfast was usually hard rolls, hams and eggs together, boiled pinto-type beans, cafe con leche (which is strong coffee mixed with scalded milk), and lots of orangeade. Lunches were usually rice dishes. Didlake described a dish with ground beef surrounding a boiled egg, cooked in barbecue sauce. "It was delicious," he reported.

National Baptists, said Didlake, are carrying the evangelistic part of the work, sharing their faith, witnessing, winning the people around all the units. Bob Dixon of the Texas unit, reported that 2,000 professions of faith had been registered and that at least four new churches will have been established when the disaster relief crews leave.

Didlake said that for the first time in his life, he heard numbers of people coming up to the unit saying "Tell me about Jesus."

A pilot who flies for the Mexican airline, worked with the unit until the moment he had to meet a scheduled flight. "You'll never know how grateful we are," Didlake said the man told him he felt God calling him into ministry somewhere down the road.

As for the Southern Baptist representatives, Didlake said they were doing "a fantastic job down there" helping the volunteers relate to the people, knowing what is needed, and with personal witness. "The seminary students, church people, all are witnessing. 'I feel like their image is being helped,'" he said. Head cook is the assistant director of the sports center where the unit was feeding.

When the 18-wheeler arrived, it was directed up a series of brick steps to a mezzanine. The volunteers protested that the bricks would be broken. "Forget the bricks," said the Mexican directing them, "We're feeding people."

One evening when the crew was having a sharing time around the dinner table, nearly 11 p.m., they were discussing the openness of the people in hearing the claims of Christ. One volunteer, with tears in his eyes, said Didlake, told the group, "The thing that hurts me most is to think of those people who died and they didn't know my Jesus."

(Continued on page 4)



Mexican women prepare food for earthquake victims in Mexico City at the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit.— Photos by James Smith.

## The Baptist Record

### State convention mixes business with preaching

By Tim Nicholas

The 1985 Mississippi Baptist Convention set for Nov. 11-13 at First Baptist Church, Jackson, will feature the preaching of a number of well-known Southern Baptist ministers, including Charles Stanley, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition, the convention will feature special events being planned to commemorate this the 150th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Foremost among the events being planned will be a special play commissioned by the Order of Business Committee to depict events from the history of Mississippi Baptists. The play is being written by Ev Robertson of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, and will be enacted by volunteers from Mississippi Baptist churches.

Speakers include Stanley who is pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, and will be closing speaker; John Bisagno; Bill Tanner; Ed Young; and Perry Sanders.

Bisagno is pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.; Tanner is president of the Home Mission Board; Young is pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.; and Sanders is pastor First Baptist Church, Lafayette, La.

The Bible Treasure speaker will be Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth. The Bible Treasure portion of the program is a six-part series of short devotional messages during each convention, one per session.

Charles Pickering, a lay member of First Baptist Church, Laurel, will

deliver the president's address. This is the second of Pickering's two one year terms. A new president will be elected this year, according to tradition.

And the annual convention sermon will be preached by Roy Myers, pastor of Rocky Creek Baptist Church, at Lucedale.

Business matters for the convention, besides election of officers, include consideration of an \$18,550,000 1986 Cooperative Program budget, and consideration of building projects

for William Carey College and the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Both projects are well under way. And a report is expected concerning progress of the \$40 million endowment campaign.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will bring a special report to the convention on Monday evening following music by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen.

And on Tuesday evening and the  
(Continued on page 4)

### Marilyn Hopkins goes to Michigan to direct WMU

Marilyn Hopkins, consultant in the Woman's Missionary Union Department of the Mississippi Baptist Con-



vention Board, has accepted the position of director of WMU for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Miss Hopkins, who began her work with Mississippi Baptists more than 12 years ago when she was named Acteens consultant, will begin her work at the Southfield, Mich., offices on Nov. 1. She will be leaving Mississippi's staff of six professionals, in WMU work, which is directed by Marjean Patter-

son, to be the only state staffer and to work with five volunteer age-level directors.

Miss Hopkins will also work as an appointed Home Mission Board missionary with an assignment in Christian social ministries. She will be working with black women in promoting an interracial women's retreat and provide assistance among the black churches in providing missions education and interfaith witness.

A native of California, Miss Hopkins is a graduate of Dallas Baptist College and earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary.

Her twin sister, Carolyn, is Acteens consultant in North Carolina.



Ron Moody of Jackson plays a game with a Mexican child. Rapport was good with both children and adults as Mississippi volunteers worked among earthquake victims.



# Anti-pornography groups gather in Cincinnati

By Suzanne Darland

CINCINNATI (BP)—Pornography "has escalated in the past 10 years," ABC-TV producer Ken Wooten told the crowd of 350 who attended the third National Consultation on Pornography in Cincinnati Sept. 4-6.

Representatives of 70 denominations, including Southern Baptists, were told the pornography industry "is changing sexual attitudes" and harming countless women, teenagers, and children. In tightly guarded "men only" or "women only" rooms, conference participants browsed through hard- and soft-core pornography. They saw pictures that included violent sex, sex with children, and sex with animals.

The executive director of the National Coalition Against Pornography which sponsored the meeting said afterwards most churchgoers have an "ostrich" attitude when it comes to pornography. "I don't read it; I don't buy it; so I stick my head in the sand and ignore it," said Richard E. McLawhorn.

The Southern Baptist attorney said he "broke" when he saw "blasphemous cartoons" in many magazines as well as the graphic sex depicted.

Carl B. Turner, a Chicago gynecologist and executive recording secretary for the Illinois National Baptist State Convention, agreed. "Eighty percent of our people are not fully informed," he estimated. "Many still think pornography is occasional nudity. They don't know the whole connotations of things like satanism and bestiality."

Donald E. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister who founded and is head of the National Federation for Decency, threatened a boycott against

advertisers.

"After this fall, we're prepared to join in a well organized boycott," he said. He cited the heads of 69 denominations who have signed a "Statement of Concern" sent to television networks. Those names include the executive directors and presidents of 17 state Southern Baptist conventions.

At stake in most discussions about pornography are First Amendment rights guaranteeing free speech. But

conference speakers pointed out the Supreme Court also has set guidelines about what constitutes obscenity and about a committee's right to establish standards of decency.

"The god of pornography is sexual perversion and money," said William F. Kelly, a retired special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Suzanne Darland is a correspondent for the Western Recorder, news-journal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Mississippi group fights abuses

Lewis Abbott, pastor of Lexington Baptist Church, Lexington, S.C., was the speaker Sept. 23 for a group of Mississippians meeting in the Parish Hall of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Jackson. The purpose of the meeting was to study a way of organizing to combat pornography, child abuse, drug use, and alcohol abuse.

The meeting was set up by an ad hoc committee on social concern, and invitations were signed by James M. Baird, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson; Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission; and Baptist Layman Owen Cooper, retired industrialist of Yazoo City.

Cooper said the group wants to organize to be able to carry on its battle more effectively. A nationwide organization, the National Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP), is an attempt to pull together all such groups under one umbrella for more effectiveness, Cooper indicated. He said that there are between 70 and 100 denominations involved in the NCAP coalition now, and he hopes Southern Baptists will join.

It is, he said, an attempt to organize citizens groups to effectively work with power groups in the state. Theirs will be a program of education and enlistment, he noted.

## State September missions gifts total \$1,128,874

September gifts to state and worldwide Southern Baptist causes through the Cooperative Program totaled \$1,128,874, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Board receives and disburses the gifts from the nearly 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches which participate in the unified funding program of Southern Baptists.

The September total was an increase of \$65,421 over that of September 1984, and the 1985 total of \$12,653,897 is \$863,323 more than giving for the first nine months of 1984 which totaled \$11,790,574.

However, the 1985 nine months'

There is conclusive evidence, Cooper said, that there is a cause and effect relationships between pornography and sex crimes. The group will seek to get Congress to write new laws on pornography and get cases before the Supreme Court in order to have effective laws against pornography.

## Colombia Seminary hears fighting, but stays open

CALI, Colombia (BP) — Fighting between Colombia's military and forces intent on overthrowing the government was within earshot of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Cali, but classes are continuing.

"They've been shooting up here this morning," James Giles, Southern Baptist missionary who is president of the seminary, said in an Oct. 1 telephone interview.

Giles, of Bailey County, Texas, sounded a call for prayer for the safety of missionaries, the seminary's 73 students and leaders of 20 Baptist churches in the Cali area, where 1.5 million people live. There are 19 Southern Baptist missionaries working in Cali.

Just four blocks separated the

## Son of HMB employee killed

ATLANTA (BP) — The son of a Home Mission Board word processor was killed in a plane crash 50 miles south of Atlanta.

Steven Wilson, 35-year-old son of Home Board employee Betty Wilson, was the pilot of the plane carrying 16 parachutists. All were killed.

The plane was taking off for one of several jumps in clear, sunny skies, and it apparently climbed to about 1,000 feet before it nosed down and rammed into a farm pasture. All the jumpers were on the plane when it crashed.

Wilson, a pilot for the Westwind Sport Parachute Club, Jenkinsburg, Ga., was a former employee of the Federal Aviation Administration and also had been a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

Although cause of the crash has not been determined, the chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board said the plane was operating with contaminated fuel and may have been overloaded. He described the fuel as "the color of black coffee."

The pilot's father, retired Southern Baptist minister Herb Wilson, told reporters his son would never have flown the plane if he had known there was a problem with the fuel.

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## Mexico

(Continued from page 3)

"The men got up with a renewed commitment," said Didlake. "They'd make sure as many as possible received the message of Christ."

The commitment of the Mississippi unit may approach a month's stay with volunteers flying in and out replacing one another. The crew scheduled to enter Mexico this week included returnees Jim Didlake, of the Brotherhood staff; Rod Moody, Jackson; Garvin Herrington, Philadelphia; Charles Jones, Laurel; Charles Thornton, Crystal Springs; Buck Fortner, Lambert; Fred McCrory, Jackson; and Phil Phillips, Brandon.

## Convention

(Continued from page 3)

combined choirs of the Mississippi Baptist colleges will present special music.

The convention begins at 1:30 Monday afternoon, Nov. 11, and concludes Nov. 13 at 11:50 a.m., continuing a change in recent years to a six session program to allow Wednesday afternoon for travel back to church fields.

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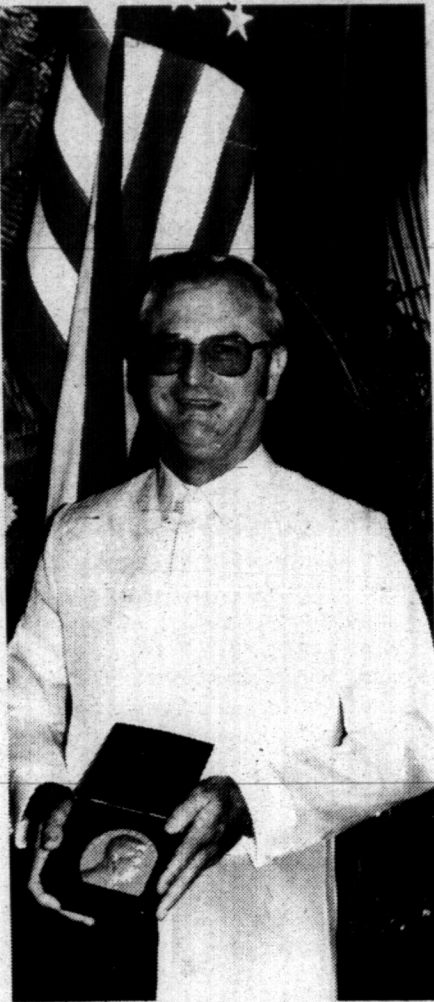
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# First, Jackson, raises \$14 million

By Lois Clover



## Watson a winner

Baptist missionary agriculturalist Harold Watson from Mississippi displays a gold medal he received for winning one of the world's highest prizes for international understanding. In accepting the Ramon Magsaysay Award, considered the Nobel Prize of Asia, Watson told an audience gathered at the Phil-American Life Auditorium in Manila, Philippines, "All the achievements accomplished were through God's power. My prayer is that we will all work together to be good stewards of the earth God has entrusted to us." In addition to the medal, Watson received \$20,000, which he donated to the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center, which he directs in the Philippines. Watson was recognized for spearheading the development of a plan to help peasant farmers turn barren land into thriving orchards and gardens and for teaching this plan to thousands of Asians. (FMB) PHOTO By Les Hill

## Shells explode in Beirut on Baptist seminary campus

By Frances Fuller

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Shells exploded on the campus of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary Sept. 28. None of the four Southern Baptist missionary families, 10 students and several employees who live there was injured.

The shells fell during a random bombing of areas in east Beirut. One blast broke 12 windows in the home of missionaries David and Maxine King on the seminary campus and destroyed a tree in their front yard. The Kings, from Livingston, N.J., and Angus, Texas, respectively, were in an inside hallway at the time.

Glass blew into the King's basement, where missionaries Bill and Vivian Trimble were sitting with their daughter and son-in-law, missionaries Jerree and Gary White, and the Whites' two small children.

The Trimbles, from Rodessa, La., and Holloway, La., live in an apart-

ment above the Kings. The Whites had been in Lebanon just one week, having transferred from Jordan after their first furlough. He is from Pineville, La., and she from Alexandria, La.

A second shell hit an international ministries building still under construction on campus, doing only slight damage. Shrapnel from another shell hit a room in the home of missionaries Emmett and La Nell Barnes from Potosi, Mo., and Monette, Ark.

Normal activities resumed at the seminary the next day. Missionaries reported worshipers crowded into the seminary chapel for the Sunday morning service of the Mansourieh Baptist Church. Two young women were baptized, and both mentioned the role of missionaries in bringing them to Christ.

Frances Fuller is Missionary Press Representative.

As work progresses, Study Center South will be demolished, as will

several of the church's buildings on the east side of North State Street. The present sanctuary was built in 1925 and the education building was completed in the early 1950s. Although the church has added substantially to its land holdings and has remodeled and maintained its facilities, it has not had a major addition in more than 30 years.

First Baptist Church was founded in 1838; this congregation has had a part in the founding of every Southern Baptist church in the city since that time.

Records show that from Sept. 1, 1969, through July 31, 1985, active membership has increased by 3,596. It is projected that church membership will reach 12,000 by the year 2000. Sunday School attendance, now surpassing 2,400, is expected to reach more than 4,000 by year 2000. The music ministry, which increased 800% from 1970 to 1984, is expected to be at 2,200 by the year 2000. It is now 1,200.

Mission giving, which now totals \$876,532 for foreign and home missions, is projected at \$2,500,000 by the year 2000.

This effort was led by church-wide committees headed by Chandler Clover and Harry Jacobs under the theme "For Such A Time As This" and the underlying theme of "Not Equal Gifts but Equal Sacrifice." Rhyné Neubert has served as chairman of deacons during this emphasis. Advanced commitments which accounted for a large part of the \$14 million total

were secured by Henry Hederman, Woodrow Bailey, Henry Holman, Alvis Hunt, and Richard Newman. Members of the Building Committee are Zach Hederman, W. Baldwin Lloyd, Paul Moak, Marie McKeigney, W. K. Paine, and Kelly Allgood. Dean/Dale and Dean are architects.

GOOD NEWS AMERICA — GOD LOVES YOU

**PASTOR'S CONFERENCE**

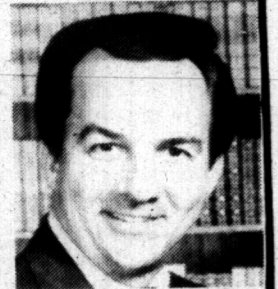
Van Winkle Baptist Church  
Jackson, MS  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Featured preachers



**Gerald Harris**  
Pastor  
Colonial Heights  
Jackson, MS



**Ron Herrod**  
Pastor FBC  
Kenner, LA



**Donnie Guy**  
Pastor Van Winkle  
Jackson, MS

Featured singers  
**Jasper Butler, Shreveport, LA**  
**Mrs. Marion Lee, Hattiesburg, MS**

Pastors, staff members, and lay people all across the state are invited.  
For more information call (601) 922-3513

Our Annuity Board of the SBC has rendered great service in providing progressively improved retirement programs. When I came out of the seminary my first two churches, Lyon Baptist Church and Jonestown Baptist Church, participated in the old Plan "A." South Side Baptist Church in Meridian continued in this plan.

First Baptist Church of Crystal Springs participated in this plan also, but later this church participated in Plan "B" in addition to Plan "A." The contributions of Plan "B" were designated for retirement housing.

These plans have helped so much in our retirement years. But they have not met nearly all of the financial needs of retirement.

I rejoiced greatly that our SBC Annuity Board is now providing the new expanded Church Annuity Plan. I would strongly urge every SBC church in Mississippi, along with the pastors and other church employees, to enter into this new Church Annuity Plan to the fullest extent possible. This plan will provide well for the retirement years.



**Southern Baptist Annuity Board**

Rev. Estus Mason  
Crystal Springs, MS





# State Baptist students commit to send out 75 missionaries

By Tim Nicholas

"Every one of us is called to be a good news-caster," Frank Pollard told students attending the state Baptist Student Union convention at First Church, Oxford, Sept. 27-29.

Pollard, president of Golden Gate Seminary in California, and former pastor of First Church, Jackson, told the group that when Jesus took Peter, James and John to "a special kind of huddle" and they met with Moses and Elijah, the latter two discussed Jesus' upcoming death at Jerusalem. "If there's any mistake people make in interpreting the Bible," said Pollard, it is concerning the second coming of Jesus. "The most important coming was the first coming," he said.

Pollard indicated that the huddle in football is a time for deciding what to do next. "We get the idea that we're

great players just because we made it to the huddle," he said. "What a sin it is to stay in the huddle and lose the game by default."

In a business session the students approved a recommendation from a student-led committee to accept assignments for 75 students in home and foreign summer missions and in foreign summer and semester combination assignments.

The budget they adopted—actually an informal pledge to raise that much themselves—totaled \$82,000. The students raised the entire amount necessary to send their missions representatives out each year.

The foreign summer assignments will be in Taiwan, Israel, Malaysia, India, and with the European Baptist

Convention, totaling 12 students. The semester-summer jobs call for two youth workers with the European Baptist Convention and one construction worker in Brazil. And the home missions jobs total 60 students from Alabama to New England to Hawaii.

The other principal speaker was Ted Ward of Michigan State University, lately assigned as dean of International Studies and programs, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Ward was the missions emphasis speaker.

Ward talked about the need for missionaries in special circumstances. He said in many places regular missionaries cannot go. But China needs teachers, and the Muslim world business persons are welcome.

He said that short term work also makes sense today. "Nobody ever becomes a missionary by taking an airplane ride." He suggested that students "began where you are and cross the cultural hurdles out into the world."

Ward told the group that the mass media and jet airplanes have advanced missions technology greatly. "But people are won to Jesus Christ the same way as in the time of the apostles—by person to person contact."

Summer missionaries made reports. David Caves of Delta State, feels he learned God's will which is "to seek his face every day." He also surrendered to the gospel ministry this summer in Oregon. Todd Watson of Mississippi College, who worked in inner city Topeka, Kans., told students, "I didn't think it was possible to live in America and not know who God is." There he found kids who didn't. And Mindy Purdue of Blue Mountain who worked in the Netherlands said, "The biggest thing I learned about myself is I'm just normal. As long as I am committed and willing, he (God) will use me."



A brief ceremony commemorating the life and influence of Frank Leavell, founder of the convention-wide aspect of Baptist Student Union, was observed during the convention weekend. State BSU President Scott Valentine places a wreath on the gravestone in the cemetery in Oxford where Leavell is buried. "Dr. Frank" was born, reared and educated at Oxford. Said Jerry Merriman, Mississippi student-work director, "Throughout his ministry, he developed and enunciated the four principles on which the movement was founded: BSU is frankly denominational; it is student led; church related; and it offers students the very best."



Frank Pollard, one of the convention speakers, told the group that a person's biggest ministry could be encouragement—in putting people up instead of down.



Ted Ward said people can watch television and see an earthquake's effects, and see people starve. The world is literally "going in one eye and out the other," he said.



Mindy Purdue of Blue Mountain and Todd Watson of Mississippi College (pictured) joined David Caves of Delta State in reporting their summer missions experiences. Said the lanky Watson, the inner city kids in Topeka, Kans., where he worked "toward the end of summer, wanted your love and were willing to give it back."



The Sounds of Joy of Northeast Mississippi Junior College spark the BSU convention crown to expressions of joy.



Shayla and Mack Blake, musicians from Ruston, La., led music and presented a mini concert to the BSU convention.

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# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

## Here and there

My old eye glasses have gone to Honduras and I hope are helping somebody there see better. In a housecleaning binge, I found five or six old pairs of mine and W.D.'s. Then I read in the Clarke County Baptists' newsbulletin that a medical team needed eye glasses to add to ones they had, for a mission project. Florence Larrimore contributed several more pairs and boxed them to mail to Mrs. Lavonia McPhearson at Stonevall. ("The Clarke Communicator" is sent out weekly from the office of Grady Crowell, Clarke director of missions.)

The H. C. Watkins Hospital Christian Fellowship sent a medical mission team to Honduras, for Sept. 18-30. The team was coordinated by a doctor, C. Graham of Enterprise, and his wife, with the assistance of Global Outreach and other team members, Rodney and Lavonia McPhearson and Mrs. Pat Dunagin.

They went to Puerto Lempira, where Landon and Pat Wilkerson work with the Miskito Indians. I'll never forget my visit there in 1974, and remember with pleasure many of the people I met there, so I was especially glad to have a tiny part in the venture, by sending the glasses.

Mrs. McPhearson reported that eyeglasses and other supplies such as medicines, liquid vitamins for infants, and English and Spanish Bibles, had been sent to the team from Jackson; Gilbertown, Ala.; Tennessee; and other areas.

\* \* \* \*

Forest Church, Charles Belt, pastor, has adopted missionary prayer partners, home and foreign. I read about them in "Good News," the church's mid-weekly bulletin. The Home Mission Board assigned to the church family a missionary couple in California, Mark and Helen Caldwell. Mark, a mission pastor, serves with the New Church Growth Department of the Home Mission Board in Sacramento. The Caldwells have one son, Benjamin.

"You are encouraged to write the Caidwells," the pastor wrote, "and let them know of your prayers for them. Ask them to share special prayer requests and needs with you. Keep in touch with them. Their birthdays are Mark—Aug. 5; Helen—Feb. 1. You may write them at 3242 Iberian, Sacramento, CA 95833."

The foreign missionaries they have

adopted as prayer partners are Dennis and Jean McEntire of Paraguay. Dennis is a field evangelist, starting new churches in his assigned area. Jean is a music missionary and teacher of their children, Anji, 15; David, 12; and Jeremy, 9. Anji teaches a Sunday School class, and guitar and English classes in the Cultural Center sponsored by the Baptist Church. David teaches a class of small children on Wed. nights; and Jeremy participates with the entire family in musical concerts, playing his flute and handbells. Their address is Mission Bautista, Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay, S.A. (I met the McEntires when I was in Argentina and David, then nine, was in the class of MKs that I taught at camp in the mountains.)

\* \* \* \*

Last week I had a letter from Allen Webb of Pascagoula (retired Jackson County DOM), who is interim pastor at International Baptist Church, Munich, Germany. He said that on the first of September the church gave a surprise dinner at the officers' club, in honor of the new pastor and his wife, Leila Mae Webb, and also gave them an old-fashioned pounding.

"Last Sunday, Sept. 8," he said. "We had people from 14 nations present. A music and youth director from Gadansk, Poland, sang. A lady who is in the opera sang her husband's composition of Psalm 100. Among our guests that day were the Ed Millers and the Billy Steeles from First Baptist Church, West Point, Miss. They had seen the write-up about our coming to West Germany in the Baptist Record and decided to worship with us on their trip."

The Webbs had had a Saturday visit to Eng. Austria, and a visit with John Merritt in Wiesbaden. "After that," he reported, "I carried Leila Mae for a trip on the Rhine, celebrating our 44th anniversary. We saw castles at nearly every bend of the river. Leila Mae said, 'Now I want you to carry me to spend the night in a castle before we go home!'"

The Webbs' home in Pascagoula was considerably damaged by Hurricane Elena. He bought their plane tickets to return to Mississippi, but their sons, Jim and Ron, called and assured them they could care for the damages as well as their parents could. So they decided to stay in Munich and fulfill their commitment.

## Lee County calls director for apartment evangelism project

Lee County Baptist Association has added Tim Welford to the staff as director of the associational mobile home/apartment evangelism project.

Welford, his wife, Karen, and their children, Matthew, age 3, and Lauren, age 1, have moved to Tupelo from Alexandria, La., where he has been

serving as minister of education at Horseshoe Drive Baptist Church. They are residing at the Glenkirk Apartments.

Welford is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary, with an MRE in religious education.

Thursday, October 10, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

## Letters to the Editor

### Is clapping acceptable?

Editor:

A question has arisen in our church which I would like to get other opinions on. It regards clapping in church. I realize that this has become a common practice in many churches today. Many people think that clapping is acceptable while others think it is totally out of place in the worship service.

I personally feel that at times clapping is acceptable, but I think in our own church that it has gotten out of hand. Many times the applause has seemed totally inappropriate. I feel the nature of the song should be considered before clapping. Many times A-Men seems much more appropriate than applause. We don't applaud the pastor's sermon, and much of the special music is a "message in song."

Also, I feel that those who insist on applauding the pianist, the choir, the singers, and whatever else they can, even though they know it is very disturbing to others, are being very inconsiderate by knowingly affecting the worship experience of many other people.

Are there times when clapping would be considered in "bad taste" or unacceptable?

Shelly Cruthirds  
Biloxi

### Christian rock

Editor:

This letter is in regard to several letters printed in The Baptist Record concerning Christian rock. These letters portrayed Christian rock as "aiding rebellion," "promoting sexual desires," and "brainwashing." To this I have three comments:

First, our youth will listen to secular music, both Christian or country with or without our consent. They will hear in secular music how to be promiscuous, how to cheat on their future spouses, and to defy the government. If youths listen to Christian rock they will learn how to accept Christ, how to live and grow in the Lord (a concept sadly lacking in "approved" Christian music) and to defy Satan. I would rather expose our youth to Christian rock than the alternative.

Second, the Bible teaches that Satan is not a creator but a perverter and destroyer. Christian rock teaches concepts that are not satanic but Christian. Be very careful what you

### Ole Miss has BSU intern

Rob Boyd is a Baptist Student work intern at Ole Miss this semester working with BSU director Keith Cating.

Boyd is a master of divinity student at New Orleans Seminary.

A native of Bay St. Louis, Boyd is a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi and served three summers on the Gulf-shore staff, 1977-79.

He worked at an accounting firm in Jackson before leaving for seminary two years ago and was licensed by First Church, Jackson.

term ungodly or satanic.

Finally, Christ said when the disciples tried to rebuke some other disciples when they were doing work outside their influence not to stop them because he who is for us is not against us (Luke 9:49-50). When you can accept anything of God with thanksgiving you can find no fault

with Christian rock. At any rate, we are responsible for what we as Christians do; and we can't point to rock and roll and blame it for our problems because we are to be held in account for our actions, not outside forces.

Eddie Williamson  
Long Beach, CA

### Devotional

## Have we retired to the locker room?

By Chris Burrows

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1).

It is football Friday in Mississippi. From Corinth to Biloxi, the stadiums are filled in anticipation of the weekend warriors. Representing their respective forces, the clubs are ready to battle on the playing field.

The officials are in position, the bands are whooping it up, and the cheerleaders have whipped the fans into a frenzy. But, wait a minute, something is going haywire.

One team retreats from the playing field to the dressing room and locks the door from the inside. They refuse to come back out until they are assured all of the conditions are adjusted to their liking. As a result, there is no contest at all.

Is it possible that we, as God's people, have retired to the locker room? Have we used the church as a refuge to comfortably hide out, hoping world conditions will be corrected so we can return?

The Bible instructs us to run the race. If this involved fighting for the faith in the midst of hostile crowds and less than ideal playing conditions, then so be it.

The world is in need, waiting for God's people to take advantage of the opportunities that lie before them. The contest figures to be filled with turnovers, breakdowns, and mental mistakes. But, we are members of a team with unlimited resources. The opposition, rugged as it is, cannot throw anything at us that can not be handled.

Our coach has trained, equipped, and prepared us for the contest. We must take seriously our call to step onto the playing field and battle for the victory.

At the same time, we must always remember that if we are faithful to the work, then the ultimate victory will be ours.

Burrows is pastor, Dorsey Church, Mantachie, and staff member, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

## January Bible Study Clinic

Tuesday, October 15

9:30 - 3:30

Mississippi College

(Hall of Fame Room)

ADULTS: Dr. Bill Tolar — Hebrews

YOUTH: Karen Dockrey — Deuteronomy

This clinic is for individuals who plan to teach January Bible Study.

Noon Meal Complimentary Of Mississippi College

RESERVATION FOR NOON MEAL

(Must be received by Friday, October 11)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will need a lunch reservation. \_\_\_\_\_

No, I will not need a lunch reservation. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend the Adult Conference OR the Youth Conference (Circle One)

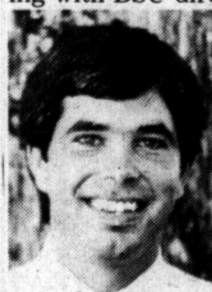
RETURN TO LARRY SALTER, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



Tolar



Dockrey



Boyd



## "Turned loose with blow torch"

# Sounds of Joy sing and paint in Hawaii

The Sounds of Joy (Northeast Mississippi Junior College BSU Ensemble) participated in a singing — construction mission to Hawaii in May and June. Joe Cobb, BSU director, and his wife, Rose, had spent all of last summer in Hawaii supervising six BSU student missionaries from Mississippi who had been assigned to do construction work. The people in Hawaii, in appreciation for work the students had done, invited Cobb to bring a group back again this year.

The first two weeks were spent on Oahu, where Honolulu, Waikiki, and Pearl Harbor are located. While there, they sang on a ship during a sunset

cruise off the Waikiki Beach. This is a bi-weekly mission sponsored by the Christian Social Ministries of the Hawaii Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board. They presented concerts in the University, Central, Waianae, and Waikiki Baptist churches. Two made professions of faith the night of the Waikiki concert. The highlight of the concerts was the night they sang to the University of Hawaii BSU, said Cobb.

During the week, they painted the parsonage of the Central Baptist Church, and three small buildings at Puu Kahea, Hawaii's Baptist conference center. They also built a self

standing rock wall without the use of mortar or props. It still stands. The floors to the conference center auditorium, cafeteria, and recreation area were painted; trees were cut from an area where an amphitheater is to be built. (Many of the trees had thorns.)

The last week of this mission was spent on Kauai. As soon as the students arrived on Friday, they sang at a resort hotel for the Lihue Rotary Club. They received a prolonged standing ovation at the conclusion of the concert. The last Sunday in Hawaii, the group was divided. They conducted the services in two churches and a mission on Sunday morning, only Southern Baptist churches on that island. That night the two churches met at the mission for their last concert.

It was the Lihue Baptist Church where the team did the most difficult work. The parsonage was to be painted. To do this right required the old paint to be burned off. "It is a sight to behold when students are turned loose on a house with blow torches. The miracle is, they got the paint off and left the house standing," observed the BSU director. They were to leave for home in the early afternoon of June 5. In order to complete as much as possible, they worked until noon the last day. The Northeast BSU now has a standing invitation to "bring a group every summer."

## Names in the News



Mrs. Maggie Bates will celebrate her 100th birthday on Oct. 14. She is the oldest known member of Straight Bayou Church, Anguilla, and has been a member since

Mrs. Bates 1938. Until recent years Mrs. Bates attended Sunday School, worship services and other programs of the church regularly. Currently she lives in the Humphrey County Nursing Home in Belzoni. A family lunch will be served by her children at the noon hour on Sunday, Oct. 13 in fellowship hall of her church in honor of her birthday.

John L. Searcy is presently available for part-time pastorate, 25 years experience in the ministry. May be contacted at (601) 537-3398 or Rt. 4, Box 205-A, Morton, MS. 39117.

Mrs. Loudell Adams of Charleston died recently at Baptist Hospital, Memphis. She is survived by one daughter, wife of Joe Young, pastor of Parks Church, Drew and former pastor of Paul Church, Charleston. Mrs. Adams first became ill while attending the SBC in Pittsburgh in 1983 with her family. Reared a Baptist in Tutwiler First Church, in marriage she had become a Methodist and served as church secretary until her death. She continued to maintain an active interest in Baptist affairs.

NEW ORLEANS—Earl H. Craig, pastor of First Church, Jackson, delivered the annual Layne Foundation Lectures Sept. 24-27 at New Orleans Seminary here.

Mrs. Robert Layne of Shreveport, La., established the lectureship with M. E. Dodd as the first speaker in 1924. Each year it brings "a man of outstanding ability" to speak at the seminary.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

Oct. 13 World Hunger Day (CAC Emphasis)  
Oct. 17 Key Leadership Seminar; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CAPM)

Wheeler Grove Church (Alcorn) has ordained two members this year. Steven Essary was ordained to the gospel ministry May 12 and is currently serving as pastor of Butler's Chapel Church in Chewalla, Tenn. Garry Holley was ordained as a deacon on May 26.



W. A. Crecink was recently honored with a reception after 35 years as director of Sunday School for Meadville Church. During his time of service the Sunday School has grown from less than a hundred, with the goal this year to average 215. Crecink is shown here with the pastor, Bobby Williamson. Mike Goff will be the new Sunday School director.

NASHVILLE — Agnes Pylant, the first secretary of the Sunday School Board's church recreation department, died Aug. 5 in Richmond, Va. Pylant, 85, was a graduate of Texas Christian University, Fort Worth; Southwestern Seminary; The Curry School of Expression, Milton, Mass.; and the WMU Training School, Louisville. Memorial services for Mrs. Pylant were held Aug. 9 at First Baptist Church, Richmond.

## Hospital will build garage

MEMPHIS — Baptist Memorial Hospital will build a \$6 million multi-level parking garage in the Medical Center area to accommodate growing needs for more accessible, convenient parking facilities, Vice President Robert S. Gordon has announced.

The Medical Center Garage is part of an overall parking improvement plan for the Medical Center campus. Other plans for extension of public parking facilities include expansion of a lot on Madison and Pauline now occupied by the National Bank of Commerce-Medical Center Branch. Construction on this project will begin in 1986 after the branch moves to the 910 Madison Building.

## Gore Springs church celebrates 30th

Gore Springs Church, Grenada County will celebrate its 30th birthday anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 20. The program will begin at 10 a.m. with a stroll down memory lane. The worship service will begin at 11 a.m. G. H. Middleton, the church's first pastor will be guest minister. Lunch will be served at 12 noon.

A special afternoon program is planned at 1:30 p.m.

"We have not been able to contact any of the late Rev. H. S. Rogers' family and formally invite them. We do hope in seeing this announcement, they will be able to attend," said Mrs. Earl Gillon.

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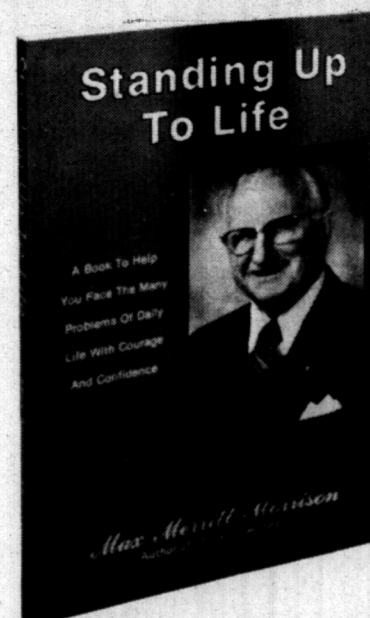


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## "Outreach on Hunger" seminar: help educate others about hunger

Outreach On Hunger, a seminar to enable people to educate others about world hunger, will be held at Roosevelt State Park in Morton, Friday, Nov. 1, with registration from 5-7 p.m., conclude at 6:15 p.m., Nov. 2.

Clyde Tilley, professor, Union University, Jackson, Tenn., former editor of SEEDS, and a Bread for the World District Coordinator, will bring the keynote speech on "Believing the Bible in a Hungry World."

Girmai Abraham, professor at Grambling State University, will be guest speaker. He will speak on the subject, "Roots of the Ethiopian Crisis."

Outreach workshops and issues workshops will be conducted. Plus, there will be worship, fellowship, resource materials, and a legislative update on Bread for the World initiatives.

There will be a charge of \$25, which includes housing, three meals Saturday, and materials.

For further information, contact Buddy Wagner, 307 Pebble Brook, Clinton, Miss., 39056, 924-3533, 924-6082. Or contact Paul Jones of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission which is assisting with the program. Jones is at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

**Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg:** Oct. 13-16; Sunday, regular services; 7 p.m. nightly; Chuck Kelly, professor, New Orleans Seminary; Brad and Tammy Jones, music; Tommy Dobbins, pastor.

**Southside, Yazoo County:** Oct. 13-16; Sunday services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. services, 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; David Miller, evangelist; Bill Williams, music; Judd Allen, interim pastor.

**First Church, Macon:** Oct. 13-18; Gordon Bayliss, Birmingham, England, guest evangelist; Bayliss, educated in Wales, has served as a missionary in France and as field representative for the European Missionary Fellowship; Sunday services, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; services each night at 7 p.m.; Friday services, 12 noon and 7 p.m.

Swallow your pride occasionally. It's nonfattening.

## Homecomings

**Grace Memorial (Lee County):** homecoming, Oct. 13; Sunday School, 9:45; morning worship, 11:00; dinner at 12 noon; singing in the afternoon with Talmadge Smith, formerly of the Tidesmen, and his new group, Rufus Ross, and singers from the church; Joe Holcomb, pastor.

**Zion Hill, Wesson:** homecoming, 102nd anniversary; Oct. 20; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Copiah Association, evangelist; old fashioned dinner on grounds following morning service; J. Frank Smith, pastor.

**Mt. Vernon (Leflore):** homecoming and dedication of new building, Oct. 13; 11 a.m.; Gerald Welch and Joe Hill, guest speakers; dinner following worship service; Noel Brock, interim pastor; singing in the afternoon.

**Minter City (Leflore):** homecoming, Oct. 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; lunch served at church; Bob O'Neil, guest speaker; Randy Futral, pastor; singing in the afternoon.

**Briarwood, Meridian:** 16th anniversary, homecoming, Oct. 20; service, 10:45 a.m.; dinner, noon; no night service; Thomas J. Wood, pastor.

**New Good Hope (Scott):** Oct. 13; services, 10:45 a.m.; Glen Schilling, speaker; covered dish dinner with song service following; Glen W. Smith, pastor.

**Willow Grove (Covington):** Oct. 13; homecoming & 78th anniversary; Rayford Pridgen, former pastor, preaching, 11 a.m. service; lunch served in fellowship hall followed by a recognition and song service at 1:30 p.m.; the offering for the day will go toward the debt retirement of the new educational annex; Billy Purser, pastor.

**Clear Branch, Florence:** homecoming, Oct. 13; morning service, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, 12 noon; afternoon song service, 1:30; Roger Lee, guest speaker; offering goes for cemetery upkeep.

**Wiggins (Leake):** harvest day, Oct. 20; regular scheduled services for morning; lunch served; singing in afternoon; Carlton Jones, pastor.

**New Elbethel, (Lafayette):** homecoming, Oct. 13; beginning at 10 a.m.; Charles Keel, John Stewart, and Malcolm Pinion, guest speaker; lunch served, noon hour; Jimmy Sockwell, pastor.

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To make it as easy as possible for you and your family to sign up for this excellent protection plan, we're having a special enrollment period from October 1-November 30.

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## Southern Baptists dedicate new \$8 million building

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The crowd overflowed the auditorium of the Southern Baptist Convention building during formal dedication of the \$8 million facility.

The Sept. 16 ceremony was in conjunction with a three-day meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

David C. Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, cited the building dedication as "a special day for Southern Baptists."

Nashville Mayor Richard H. Fulton expressed appreciation to Southern Baptists for "your confidence in Nashville and the investment you have made to the city. You will get a good return on your investment."

Frank C. Ingraham of Nashville, a member of the Executive Committee, presided over the placing of a time capsule. Each agency placed items highlighting the work of their

organization into the capsule which was buried in the plaza outside the building.

SBC President Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, led the prayer of dedication.

The SBC building, with a construction cost of \$8 million, has been occupied since January.

The seven-story, 170,000 square foot structure houses the offices of the Christian Life Commission, the Education Commission, the Executive Committee, the Seminary External Education Division of the SBC seminaries, the Historical Commission, the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, the Southern Baptist Foundation, and the Stewardship Commission.

Lonnie Wilkey writes for the SBC Education Commission.



## Just for the Record



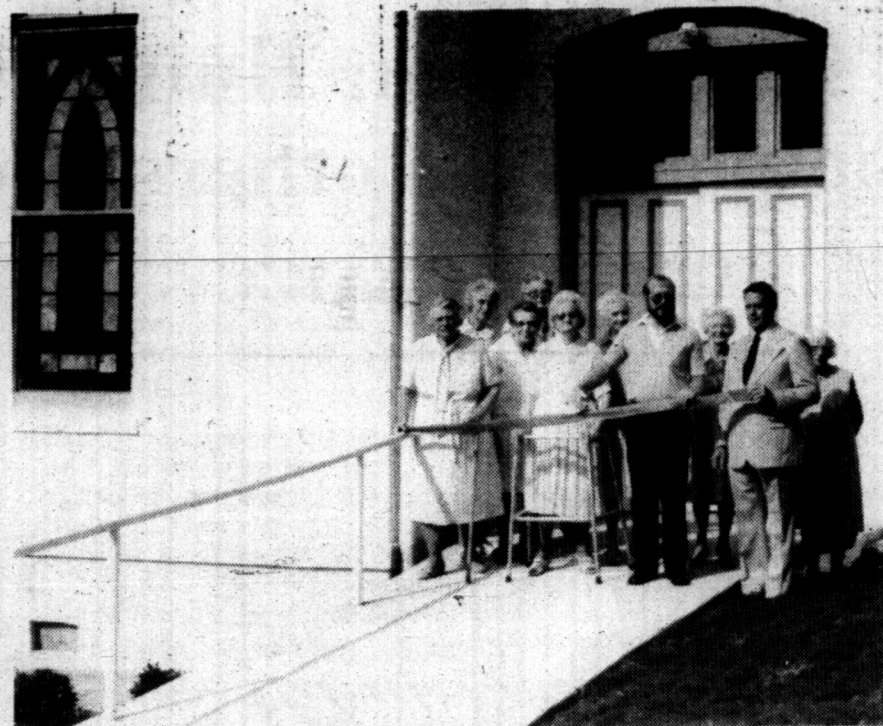
Jayess Church (Lawrence) recently held a recognition service for Royal Ambassadors, entitled "Climbing the Mountain." The Royal Ambassadors were honored with a reception by their counselors and the church immediately following the service. RAs receiving awards are pictured, front row, (l-r), Daniel Hawn, Kyle Greenlee, Russ Rutland; second row, Sam Cothorn, Daniel Cothorn; third row, Phillip Allan, Jerry Hawn, Kelly Greenlee. Counselors are Suzonne Rutland, June Cothorn, Bill and Estelle Lindsey.

Calvary Church, Braxton, broke records on high attendance day (Sept. 29), Sunday School, 100 in attendance, and Church Training, 74 in attendance. The offering received was \$2,777.91. Also, 20 choir robes were purchased, and nearly 100 percent of active families receive the Baptist Record. Glen Jones, director, Sunday School; Ander Owens, director, Church Training; and H. J. Bennett, pastor.

God's Prison Gang, a dramatic motion picture documentary, will be shown at Corinth Church, Rt. 1, Heidelberg, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. The film features George Meyer, Al Capone's get-away driver; Floyd Hamilton, last of Bonnie and Clyde's gang; Jerry Graham, Ted Jefferson and "Chaplain Ray."

Shiloh Baptist, Montgomery County, had a dedication service and note burning, Sept. 15, dedicating the new building that had been added to our church. The new addition will be used for Sunday School and other activities. Frank Roberson is pastor.

Nothing worthwhile comes easily. Half effort does not produce half results. It produces no results. Work, continuous work and hard work, is the only way to accomplish results that last. — Hamilton Holt



The first Sunday in September was Ramp Appreciation Sunday at Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. The ramp was constructed by the men of the church. Dinner, prepared by the women of the church, contributed to the fellowship of the day. Church members pictured standing on the new ramp include (left to right): Della Newby, Grace Carter, Aurelia Hollis, Sadie Lee Wells, Allee Ratliff, Frances Tyler, Roy Newby (ramp convener), Clarice Waldrup, Louis Scholle (interim pastor), and Evelyn Henderson.



Fifty three members of Joymakers, a senior adult choir group of First Church, Clinton, departed the later part of August, for a five day mission trip. Included in the trip was Calvary Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Berclair Church, Memphis, Tenn. The group is under the direction of Mrs. Joy Cliburn with Jim Douglass as accompanist. They have also presented other concerts including Senior Assembly at Gulfshore, Oak Park Baptist Church at New Orleans, and Senior Assembly at Ridgecrest. Bill Baker is pastor with Bill Bacon, minister of music.

## Staff Changes

Carl Nickels, who has served as pastor at Double Springs Church, Oktibbeha Association, for the past 13 years has resigned. He will continue to reside in Oktibbeha County for the present and will be available for pulpit supply and interim pastor work.

Danny Berry, former pastor of Bethany Church, Prentiss (Jeff Davis) has recently accepted the pastorate of Calvary Church, Denham Springs, La. He began his ministry there Sept. 22. He had served the Bethany Church for six years.

Carol Seale, who has just graduated summa cum laude from University of Southern Mississippi, is minister of education at Shady Grove (Lincoln). Her husband, Charlie, is pastor there.

Parks Church, Drew, has called Joe Young as pastor, effective Sept. 1. He has been pastor of Paul Church, Charleston, since 1978.

GRACEVILLE, FL. — Joseph L. Holder, a native of Vancleave, Miss., has been called as pastor of Evergreen Church, Westville, Fla. A student at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., he plans to graduate in December, 1988, with a bachelor of theology degree. Holder and his wife, Blossom, have two children, Christopher Joseph and Wendy Jolene.

Christopher Johnson has resigned as pastor of Smyrna, Copiah County.

Montgomery (Lincoln) is welcoming a new pastor, Anthony Chuter III.

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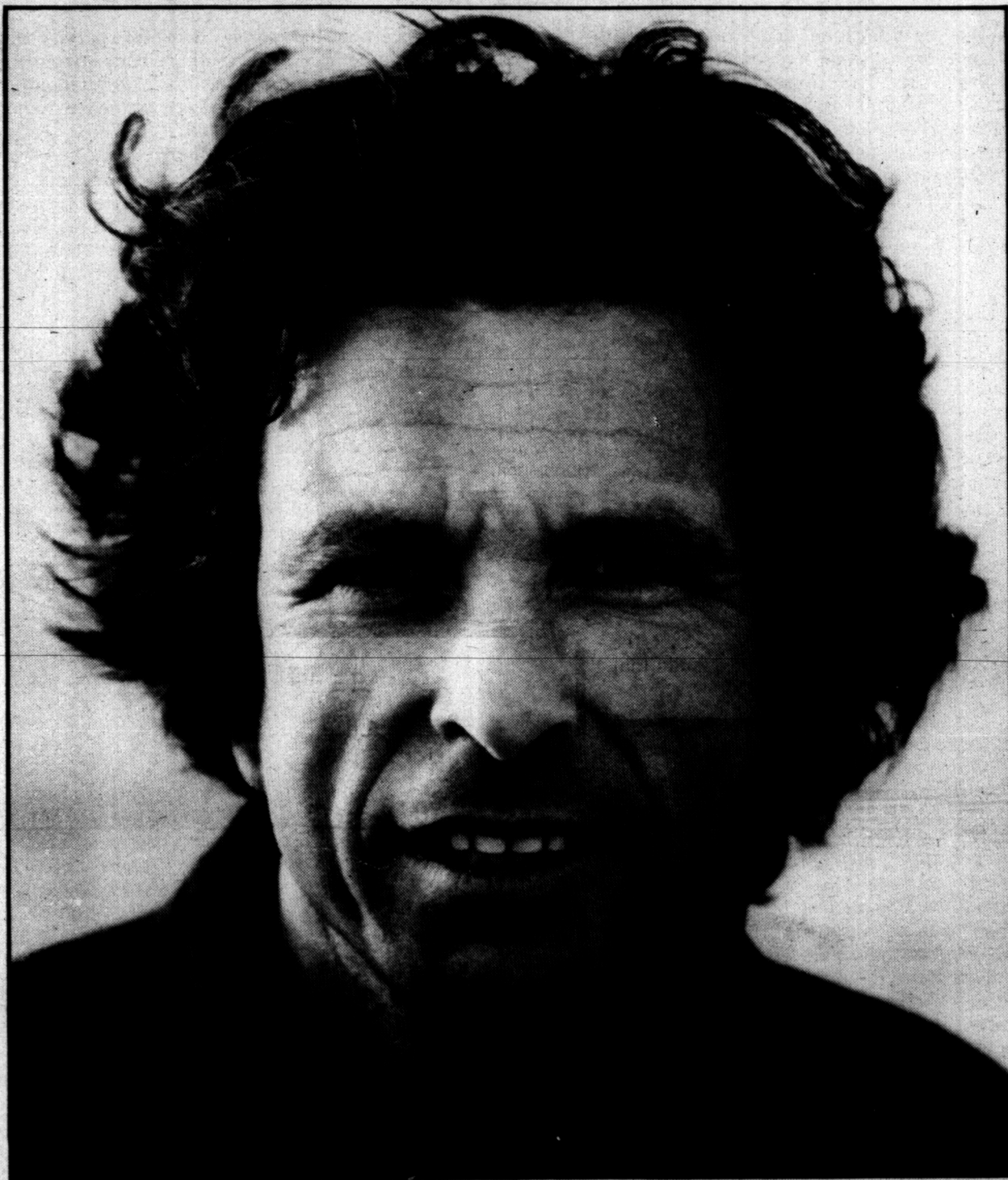
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# Baptist Record

- Bible Book: *Israel's idolatrous practices . . .*
- Uniform: *Immorality weakens the church*
- Life and Work: *Believing God's promises*

## Israel's idolatrous practices condemned

By J. Gerald Harris

Ezekiel 6:11-14; 8:13-16; 9:4-5

While the false prophets painted a bright picture of Judah's future, Ezekiel warned of the coming judgment. Like Jonathan Edwards he preached of "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

I. The instruction of deity (6:11-14)—The Lord had a message he wanted to convey to the people through Ezekiel and he wanted the prophet to be demonstrative in its presentation. God said, "When you deliver this message 'smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot . . .'"

A visitor to New York City observed the convincing performance of an actor on Broadway one Saturday evening. On Sunday morning he attended church and heard a preacher deliver a rather uninspired homily. He commented, "The actor presented fiction as though it were fact. The preacher presented the facts as though they were fiction."

Ezekiel was urged to proclaim the divine message with fervor and conviction. In the scripture the clapping of the hands and stamping of the feet often signify praise and joy (Ps. 47:1; 98:8; Ez. 25:6). In our text it seems to be an expression of the intensity of the judgment of God (see Ez. 21:17). In essence Ezekiel was called upon to make vocal and visual the rage of his God which burns against all unrighteousness.

Except for "a remnant" (v. 8) God was going to destroy the people "by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence" (v. 11). So far as God and Ezekiel were concerned it was no time to trifle or to be frivolous, but a time to be serious and fervent.

The awful tragedy of sin, the inestimable value of the soul, and the horrible significance of its loss should compel us to proclaim the message of deliverance with a passion. May God help us see the urgency and emergen-

cy of the times and thrust us out with the message of redemption and hope.

II. The increase of depravity (8:13-16)—In v. 13, Ezekiel is urged to observe the "greater abominations" of the people of Jerusalem. First we notice that the women are weeping for Tammuz. Tammuz was the Babylonian god of spring vegetation. Each year this god supposedly died and went down to Hades and revived again with each returning spring.

All kinds of immoral ceremonies and magical rites were observed in relation to Tammuz. The fact that the women of Judah were caught up in weeping for the annual demise of Tammuz is indicative of the depth of the spiritual degeneration that prevailed. As a general rule women are the last ones to desert their allegiance to traditional values and spiritual realities.

A further evidence of spiritual decay is seen in the 25 men who posi-

tioned themselves between the "porch and the altar" of the temple to worship the sun. These men who turned their backs against the temple demonstrated their utter contempt for the holy God of Israel. This is a colossal desecration of the Lord's House and an example of absolute depravity.

III. The indication of deliverance (9:4-5)—It is significant that in verse 3 the shekinah glory of the Lord begins to depart the house of God. With this event God marks the close of the theocratic kingdom in Israel's past history and the beginning of the "times of the Gentiles."

God has ordered judgment to fall upon all the apostates in Jerusalem, but those who grieve over the sins of Judah were to be marked by one of the men (angels) with an inkhorn. Those bearing this mark would be spared.

This mark of deliverance reminds us of two other situations in the Bible. In Exodus 12, the mark of blood on the

doorpost spared the firstborn son in those homes from the death angel's visit. In Revelation 7:3, an angel of the Lord was sent to mark the servants of God with the seal of God and cried to the four angels of destruction: "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

The word "mark" in verse 4, comes from the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It is the letter "Tau." The literal meaning of the letter is "cross" and the letter originally was in the shape of a cross. Conversely, in the "mark" set upon Cain in Genesis 4:15, an entirely different word is used.

So, if one looks carefully the gospel of the cross of Christ can be seen in the book of Ezekiel. In essence there are not four gospels, but 66, and the scarlet thread of redemption is seen throughout the Word of God.

Harris is pastor, Colonial Heights, Jackson.

## Believing God's promises

By David W. Spencer

Genesis 15:1-7, 13-16

Sometimes it seems as though God is never going to make good his promises. We restless and anxious human beings must learn to trust God no matter how long the path we travel.

### I. The circumstances

As chapter 15 begins we encounter a troubled Abram who has become quite anxious about the promises God had made to him. (See chapter 12.) Years before, Abram had answered God's call to leave his home and travel to a new land which would eventually become the possession of his children. In a day of child abuse, birth control, abortion, small families, and decisions not to have children at all, it is difficult for us to appreciate Abram's dilemma. However, in the Old Testament days children were the

key to the establishment of a good name and also the only hope of survival beyond the grave. It was felt that parents lived on in the lives of their children. Without a doctrine of heaven, you can see how important children could be.

Not only did Abram and Sarah have no children, but God kept up all this "promise talk" until it began to bother Abram. With all God's glorious promises, Abram had not seen a child, and he and Sarah were beyond the age of child-bearing. They had left all in Ur and Haran to follow God's call but still there were no children, no personal heirs for their great wealth, and no hope of a permanent presence in the land unto which they felt called. What we have here is a great spiritual crisis for Abram.

In a vision (v. 1) God speaks to the disillusioned heart of Abram. In verses 4 and 5 God simply renews his promises to Abram and invites him to count the stars of the heavens to get an indication of the number of his offspring. Verse 6 is the great picture of the faith of Abram. In six powerful Hebrew words Abram's attitude is shown.

Verse 6 becomes the very heart of the saving faith of the New Testament. To "believe the Lord" means to be strong in the Lord, to trust in the strength of the Lord, or more accurately to lean upon the Lord. Abram fixed himself upon the Lord. When Abram "leaned upon the Lord," the Lord reckoned, imputed, or gave approval to what Abram had done. This word reckoned was used in other Old

Testament passages to refer to the job of the priests who examined the offerings brought to the Lord and declared them to be fit for sacrifice.

What was reckoned to Abram after he leaned upon the Lord was righteousness. This term meant that Abram was declared to be fit to enter into a close relationship with God. In short, Abram's trust in God's words and plans brought him into a proper relationship with God. The enormity of this new relationship can be seen in the powerful verse 7. There God reveals something of his nature by disclosing his personal name Yahweh.

In verses 13-16 further details are given to Abram about the fulfillment of God's promises. In these verses we see that God rules over all the world,

that he gives nations time to prove themselves before judgment, that he has a special plan for Abraham's descendants, and that history is not really a puzzle but is moving according to God's plan.

Abram had taken his honest doubts and fears to God and had received enough light to travel on. Abram's story tells us that life is always a journey of faith and not sight. God's greatest promises are fulfilled in the lives of those who have faith in him. Nowhere is this better demonstrated than in fulfillment of the promises made to us who have faith in Jesus Christ. We can go on, no matter how long or hard the path may be!

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

## Immorality weakens the church

By Anthony S. Kay

I Corinthians 6:9-20

The lesson for today is both practical and personal. It addresses the fallacy of the concept, "It is my body, I will do with it as I please." Paul confronts the erroneous thinking of the Corinthian Christians. Several factors are stressed by the apostle.

I. Admonishment — Paul admonishes the members at Corinth to mend their ways. He lets them know that he is aware of an immoral situation (a man living with his father's wife) that must be corrected. The entire church is held responsible and not just the officials. In Paul's admonition we see some of the earliest pleas for church discipline. Here, as elsewhere, the purpose should ultimately be that of restoration. But, deal with the pro-

blem they must.

II. Exhortation — Paul exhorts Christians, then and now, to be morally pure. He uses the analogy of the prostitute and Christian joined together to teach a valuable lesson. For a Christian to join himself to a prostitute makes him become one with her. Thus, members of Christ's body are made to become one with a prostitute and this is abhorrent.

While visiting Corinth in 1973, I was overwhelmed when the guide told us that there were 39 houses of prostitution in a section of the old city. These women were temple prostitutes for Aphrodite. This evidently was a temptation for the early Christian in the city and Paul exhorts them to abstain from this immoral union.

III. Explanation — why does this problem exist? It exists because human nature is what it is and because of gnostic teachings about the body. Some gnostic groups (not all are the same) believe that the body is evil and the soul is good. No matter what one does with his body, it will not affect his soul. The body is just a temporary dwelling and should be used to bring pleasure in whatever way possible. This sounds remarkably like some of our modern day rationalizations.

Paul responds to this view by establishing the fact that the body is the outward expression of man himself. The body represents the person and what one does to the body he does to the personality. He stresses the connection of the body to Christ in

verse 19 by stating, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God . . .?" Paul is teaching the Corinthians and us the difference between freedom and license. We are free in Christ to become all that God means for us to be. We do not have the license to do anything we want to do. This attitude leads to tyranny, not freedom.

This lesson can speak to us about our role in society. We as Christians must be morally pure and exhibit Christlike behavior. We cannot ignore public immorality, though this may be the easy way out. Let us say, "It is my body, I will do with it as Christ pleases."

Kay is pastor, First, Calhoun City.

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